

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

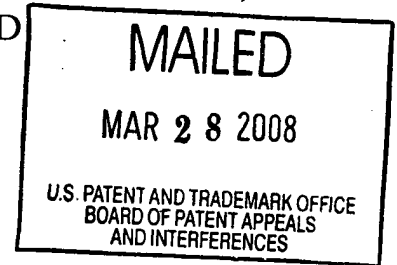
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Ex parte: TIMOTHY JAMES COLLINS, RICHARD STANLEY RACHWALSKI,  
PATRICK L. RAKERS, DAVID P. GURNEY AND  
STEPHEN L. KUFFNER

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Application No. 09/981,476

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ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

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This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on March 10, 2008. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matter requiring attention prior to docketing is identified below:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Appellant filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) dated October 17, 2001. There is no indication on the record that the Examiner has signed the above IDS. MPEP § 609 requires the Examiner to consider any Information Disclosure Statement filed by Applicant if timely submitted. A written

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communication notifying Appellant of the Examiner's consideration of the above Information Disclosure Statement is required.

**CONCLUSION**

Accordingly, it is

**ORDERED** that the application is returned to the examiner to:

- 1) consider the Information Disclosure Statements filed October 17, 2001;
- and
- 2) for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

By:

  
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DMS/tsj

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